(b) the efforts made for smooth supply of LPG in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The details of LPG sales made by the PSU Oil Companies during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as under:—

Year	LPG Consumption/Sales(TMT)
1996-97	4183
1997-98	4606(Prov.)

(b) Release of new connections against the waiting list depends inter-alia upon product availability, slack available with the existing distributors, minimum sustanable allocation to newly commissioned distributors, unviable distributors etc. With the expected higher availability of LPG through imports and indigenous production, more connections are planned to be released in future and it is expected to clear the entire waiting list by year 2000-2001.

उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी जिलों में रसोई गैस का वितरण

2561. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वन अधिनियम, 1980 के लागू होने के बाद उत्तर प्रदेश के 12 पर्वतीय जिलों में पर्यावरण एवं वन रक्षा की दृष्टि से रसोई गैस वितरण के संबंध में कोई विशेष नीति बनाई गई है;

(ख) इस संबंध में उन जिलों में प्रतीक्षा-सूची की स्थिति क्या है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार दूर-दराज के ग्रामों को भी इस योजना के अंतर्गत लाने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय से राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) से (ग) पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में वनों और पारिस्थितिकी के संरक्षण हेतु तेल कंपनियों को 2000 फुट और उससे अधिक की ऊंचाई पर स्थित सभी पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में मांग करते ही एल पी जी कनेक्शन जारी करने के अनुदेश जारी किए गए थे। तदनुसार, तेल कंपनियों ने रिपोर्ट भेजी है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के 12 पर्वतीय जिलों में 1.4.98 को एल पी जी की कोई प्रतीक्षा सूची बकाया नहीं थी। आई ओ सी ने आगे रिपोर्ट भेजी है कि वे इन 12 जिलों में फैले 337 विस्तार केन्द्रों के माध्यम से इस क्षेत्र की एल पी जी की मांग पूरी कर रहे हैं। दूर दराज के गांवों के लिए आपूर्ति हेतु स्थलों सहित नए विस्तार केन्द्रों पर तेल कंपनियों द्वारा उन्हें जैसे और जब आवेदन प्राप्त होते हैं, नीति के अनुसार विचार किया जाता है।

Papers of security deposit of LPG connection

2562. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that papers regarding deposit of security money etc. against cylinders and regulators are not given to the consumers affiliated with Uma Gas Service, Sandila, Hardoi (U.P.);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and action proposed to be taken against the said agency; and

(c) the number of connections released by the above agency, so far, and the number of consumers to whom the requisite papers have been given.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited is not aware of any complaint against M/s. Uma Gas Service, Sandila, Hardoi (U.P.), the distributor of Indian Oil Corporation regarding non-issuance of Subscription Vouchers against the deposits collected. Subscription Vouchers (SVs) indicating number of cylinders and pressure regulators issued to the customers against the security deposits collected as per the prevailing rates, are being issued by M/s. Uma Gas Service.

(c) As on 1-4-1998, the distributorship has 3930 number of customers and all of them have been issued the Subscription Vouchers.

Survey to determine backwardness in Tripura

2563. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose fresh survey in Tripura to determine the level of backwardness in the State: and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Tripura is, however, one of the States covered under all-India surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in their various rounds. the last such surveys (54th round - January to June, 1998) was on 'Use of Common Property Resources, Sanitation and Hygiene & Services' and on 'Consumer expenditure and Employment & Unemployment'.

Increase in the allocations for MPLAD Fund

2564. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to double the amount of MPLAD Fund i.e making it to Rs. 2 crores;

(b) if so, by when an announcement is expected; and

(c) by when Government plan to reimburse the interest amount to the MP's fund in regard to amount paid late in the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Some MPs have requested for enhancing funds under MPLADS from Rs. 1 crore to 2 crores. The request is under consideration. However, no decision has been taken by the Govt. in this regard so far. The funds are released to the MPs with reference to the actual progress achieved in expenditure and execution of works. Hence the question of payment of interest to the delayed releases does not arise.

Enhancement of Sub-hill plan budgetary provision of Assam

2565. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for enhancement of Sub-hill plan budgetary provision of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Sub-Plan for Designated Hill Areas of Assam includes flow from State Plan and Special Central Assistance (SCA) under Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP). SCA under HADP is distributed amongst the Designated Hill Areas on the basis of area and population giving equal weightage to each these variables. The Union Budget for 1998-99 has proposed an enhanced allocation of Rs. 390 crore for Hill Areas Development Programme against Rs. 352